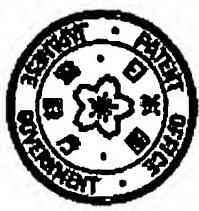


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(54) VACUUM FORMING OF THERMOPLASTIC SKIN

(57) Abstract:

PURPOSE: To form thermoplastic plastic skin that can improve adhesive workability to a base material by a method wherein a mold with a groove of shape corresponding to the outer edge portion of the base material is applied to an edge portion of the mold skin.

CONSTITUTION: Molding material P that is stretched and mounted airtightly on the surface 30a of a mold 30 after heated and softened is brought into contact with the mold at the projection

31, etc. of the mold surface 30a and separated therefrom at a groove portion 32. The portion of the molding material P in contact with the mold surface 30a is cooled as compared with portions out of contact with mold 32, etc. Therefore, portions out of contact with the mold surface 30a such as the groove portions 32 of the molding material P, etc. is higher in temperature than the portion in contact and vacuum stretchability also is large. As a result, in vacuum-formed surface skin 20, circumferential portions 20a, 20a facing the groove portions 32 of the mold 30 is formed thin, lack firmness as compared with other portions of the surface skin 20 and become remarkably flexible. Accordingly, adhesive workability of the skin 20 on the base 10 is improved exceedingly.

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